Cooks Creek Conservation District
Management Plan

Manitoba
Rural Development
Conservation
Districts Authority

92-02176/

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(Cover photo: Satellite image of the Cooks Creek Conservation District)

COOKS CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

530 Main Street, Oakbank, Manitoba R0E 1J0
Phone (204) 444-3652

May 29, 1990

Honourable Jack Penner
Minister of Rural Development
Room 330, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Dear Mr. Penner,

On behalf of the Cooks Creek Conservation District Board, it is my pleasure to present to you the **Cooks Creek Conservation District Management Plan**. The Plan illustrates our program and budget priorities for the next five years, our policy directions and our long-term vision for the District.

The Plan has received careful consideration by the Conservation District Board and by the constituent public in the Cooks Creek Conservation District. Two extensive rounds of consultation with member municipalities, sub-district committees and the public have provided valuable input to this Management Plan.

By resolution dated May 28, 1990, the Conservation District Board approved the **Cooks Creek Conservation District Management Plan**. The Board now requests your approval of the Plan.

With your endorsement and continued support for our conservation programming, the Board looks forward to implementing its Plan over the next five years.

Sincerely,

Bob Maciejkow
Chairperson, Cooks Creek Conservation District Board
Oakbank, Manitoba

Minister of
Rural Development

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

July 2, 1991

Mr. Bob Maciejkow
Chairperson, Cooks Creek
Conservation District
530 Main Street
Oakbank, Manitoba
ROE 1JO

Dear Mr. Maciejkow:

I have now had the opportunity to review your management plan. The success you experienced by involving member municipalities and the local community in the planning process will help to ensure support for district programs in future years.

I am especially pleased to note the efforts you have made in your plan to address environmental, economic and development issues. These issues interact in a unique manner due to the proximity of the district to the City of Winnipeg and resolving them will bring many challenges to your Board. Also, in expanding your program to recognize the importance of soil, wildlife and education you are bringing together all the elements for sustainable development in your district.

There are two specific outstanding matters respecting your management plan and financing. The statement in your management plan in regard to responsibility for certain crossings within Highway's rights of way remains unresolved. I understand that meetings to address this concern are currently taking place between the districts and provincial staff. You should also be advised that the Province has revised the cost sharing policy to a 70/30 provincial/municipal ratio and therefore some adjustments to your long term funding projections will be required.

Subject to my comments in the preceding paragraph, I approve your resource management plan. The plan will help to forge a strong, continued partnership with the Province of Manitoba. Be assured of my support and that of my staff in order to ensure the success of our common goals.

Yours truly,

James E. Downey
Minister

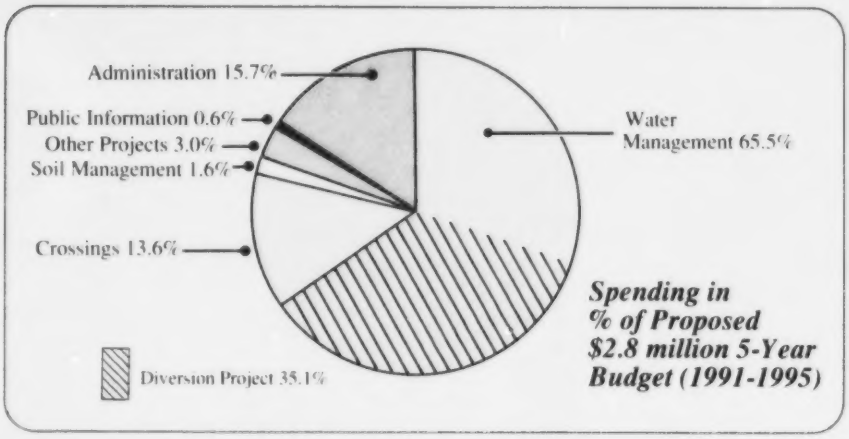
HIGHLIGHTS

Modest Budget Proposed

The Board proposes a $2.8 million program over the next five years, beginning with $522,000 in 1991 and growing to $607,000 in 1995.

The budget allows for annual growth at less than the rate of inflation.

If new programs are implemented, the Board will seek cooperation from suitable partners.



Spending in % of Proposed $2.8 million 5-Year Budget (1991-1995)

Water Management More Than Half the Budget

Upgrading and maintaining agricultural drains helps manage excess soil moisture in the District.

More than half of the budget is earmarked for upgrading and maintaining our agricultural drains ($1.0 million of the $1.8 million water budget will go to Phase 2 of the Cooks Creek Division Project). No additions are proposed to the drainage system.

The Board will apply soil capability and topographic criteria in setting standards for reconstructing drains.

Residential Flood Protection

We do not consider it feasible to upgrade agricultural drains to provide residential flood protection. But we will endeavour to photograph flooded areas for mapping (to help home-builders avoid flood-prone areas). We will also consider higher standards in dense rural residential areas if incremental funding can be obtained.

Water Quality New Initiative

We have started a program of regular testing to monitor surface water quality and work toward groundwater protection — a new intitiative in the District. Results will be reported in a new District newsletter.

Continuing Obligation for Board Crossings

A replacement schedule has been developed for all bridge structures over Board drains. We propose to limit the growth in the number of Board crossings to the extent possible. Work on critical crossings is projected to require about 14% of the 5-year budget.

Program to Limit Soil Erosion

We propose a new program to limit soil erosion in excessively dry years.

The soil management program would encourage residents to maintain vegetation and crop residue cover. We would also explore the feasibility of a demonstration project to address conservation farming practices.

Protecting Productive Agricultural Land

We will continue to express our concern, mainly through comments on municipal sub-division applications, for the loss of productive agricultural land to urban and rural residential development.

New Programs Proposed in Conservation and Reclamation

We will undertake conservation and reclamation projects — another first for the District.

We would work with others, such as Ducks Unlimited, private landowners, and municipalities and the Province of Manitoba, on a range of projects, possibly involving peatlands and small lake development.

District Newsletter Proposed

We will release a District newsletter highlighting soil management topics, reports on water quality and supply, and other conservation topics.

PUBLIC RESPONSE TO DRAFT PLAN

Public consultation has been a key feature in the preparation of this management plan. In the spring of 1989 we circulated copies of an **Issues and Options** brochure (including a questionnaire to be returned to the Board), held open houses, met with RM's, and sub-district members and received comments from interested government departments about the potential priorities of the Management Plan. The public response was used to help shape the **Draft Management Plan**.

This spring we circulated copies of the **Draft Management Plan** to each household in the District, and to government departments and interest groups concerned with conservation issues. We held open houses to hear residents' suggestions and opinions, and met with RM's and sub-district committee members to hear their views.

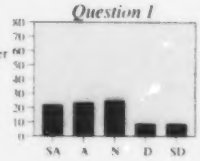
We also circulated a questionnaire with each copy of the **Draft Management Plan** that provided helpful feedback on our plans and priorities.

In the questionnaire, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the key actions outlined in the Plan. There was a high degree of concurrence with the priorities of the Board, as is illustrated below.

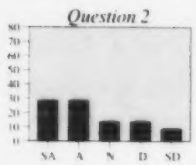
In particular, there was substantial support (58%) for the Board's continued efforts to maintain and improve the existing system of agricultural drains. There was also significant support (68%) for the Board's policy of discouraging extensions of the drainage system into the sensitive eatern upland area. Similarly, 89% agreed with the Board's policy of identifying flood-prone areas to residential developers rather than trying to solve spring flooding after the fact through drainage. There was also strong support for the new program directions outlined by the Board - particularly, the monitoring of water quality and supply (91% agreed) and measures to maintain natural vegetation cover (91%).

Response to Questionnaire
(In Percent)

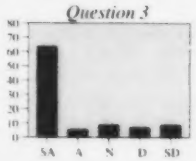
Budget
1. Modestly increase the budget, only slightly higher than the rate of inflation.



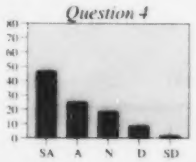
Water Management
2. Continue to maintain and improve the existing system of agricultural drains, with no additions to the system.



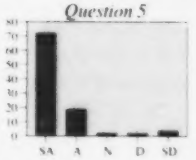
3. Discourage the construction of new drains in the eastern uplands.



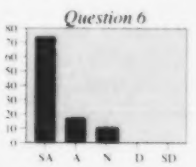
4. Acquire parcels of land for water management purposes.



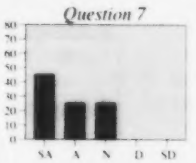
Residential Flood Protection
5. Help residents avoid flood prone areas by mapping flooded areas.



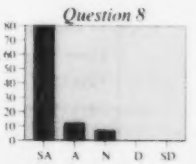
Water Quality Monitoring
6. Monitor surface and groundwater.



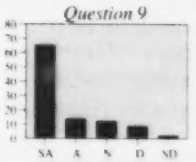
Crossings
7. Limit the growth in new crossings and continue the obligation to repair crossings over Board drains.



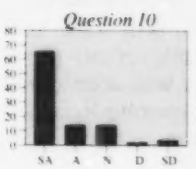
Soil Management
8. Encourage landowners to retain vegetation cover on erodible soils mainly through public awareness measures.



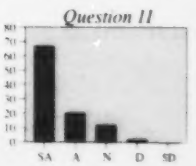
9. Implement demonstration projects on conservation farming practices, if feasible.



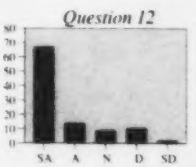
10. Oppose applications to subdivide productive agricultural land.



Conservation and Reclamation
11. Undertake conservation and reclamation projects, in co-operation with others where feasible.



Annual District Newsletter
12. Publish an annual newsletter highlighting soil management topics, reports on water quality, and other conservation topics.



Note: Non responses and multiple responses not included.
SA: Strongly Agree A: Agree N: Neither Agree nor Disagree D: Disagree SD: Strongly Disagree

WATER MANAGEMENT

Water management remains the most important challenge for the District Board over the next five years and in the long term.

It will require the largest budget allocation, estimated at $1,863,000 or 65.5% of the Board's total proposed expenditures over the next five years.

The Board's objectives for water management are as follows:

- Maintain the current level of agricultural productivity with the existing system of agricultural drains.
- Encourage prospective residents to avoid building in areas susceptible to flooding.
- Help safeguard the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater.
- Take a balanced approach to water management.

Agricultural Land Drainage

Highest Priority for Existing Drainage System

The Board will focus on essential maintenance and reconstruction of our current 339 miles of agricultural drains. Ninety percent of District drains are in serviceable condition. The remaining 10% have moderate capacity reduction relative to original construction.

Low Priority for New Drains

We will discourage expansion of the drainage network for any purpose. In exceptional circumstances, we will consider requests for drainage works that incorporate local water storage and flow control measures.

Reconstruction to Be Priorized

After 10 years of drain maintenance and reconstruction, our inventory and analysis work shows that several drainage channels still need major reconstruction to operate effectively. These channels will be restored over time, as budgets allow.

Reconstruction for 1991-95 includes the Vernon Road, Prairie Grove, and Melrose Drains. The Board will commit $425,000 (15% of the budget) over 5 years to this work.

Two other reconstruction projects — the North Bibeau and Sapton Drains — are likely to be completed in 1990.

In making decisions on the priority of channel reconstruction, the Board will consider:

- upstream drainage area
- extent to which summer rainfall has caused damage to crops in the past
- productive capability of the land
- benefit-cost ratio of the project.

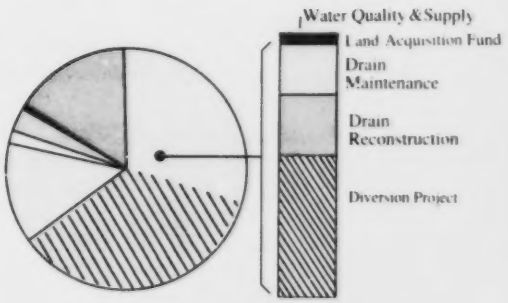
Drainage Standards to Match Agricultural Capability and Topography

When reconstructing Board drains, we will provide the highest standards of drainage to lands that have the highest agricultural capability and are subject to flooding from summer rains (see map page 8).

Eastern Uplands Special Case

The eastern uplands play an important role in ground-

PROPOSED 5-YEAR PROGRAM



$000

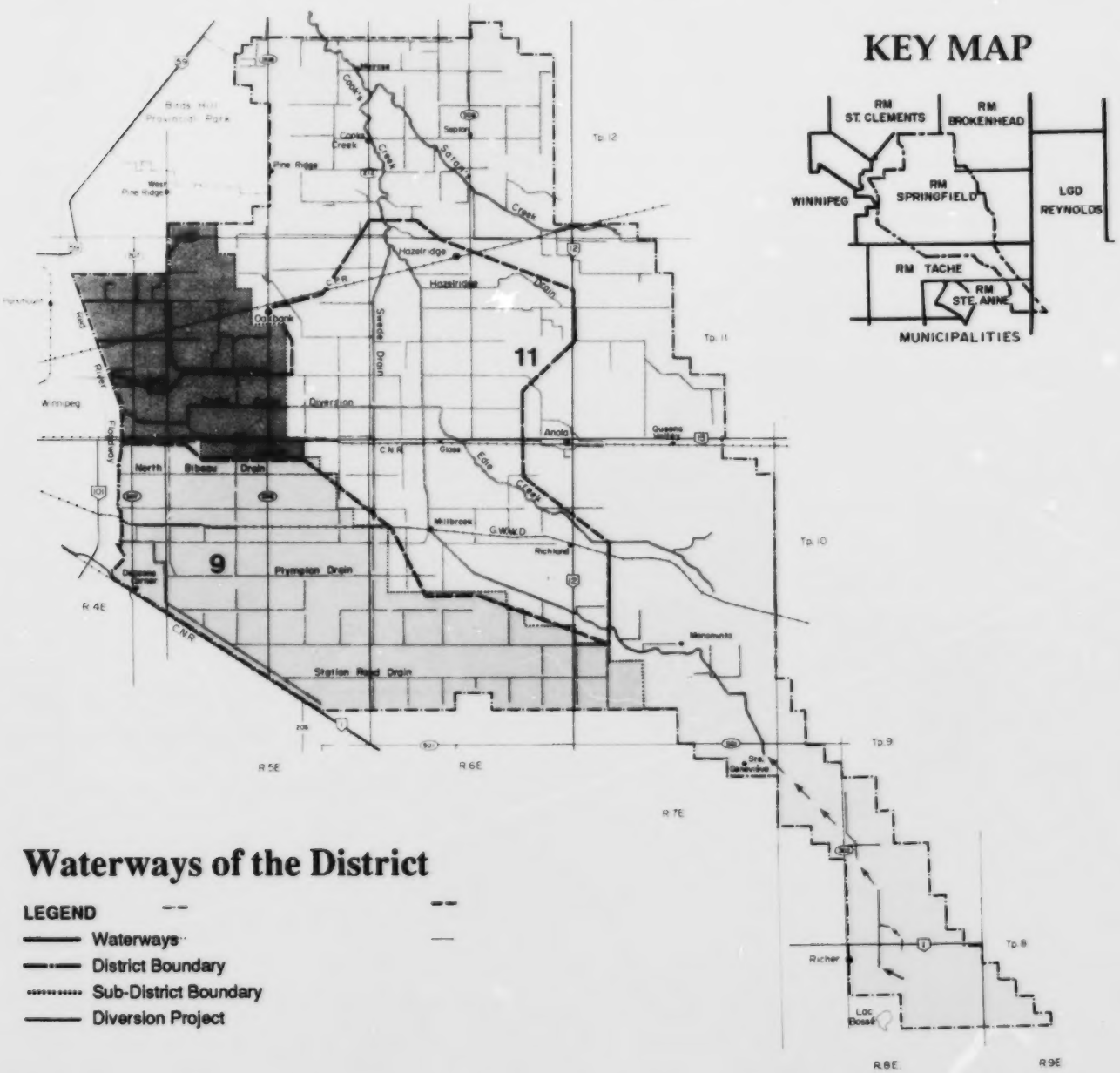
Program Component	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Drain Maintenance	66	69	72	75	78	360
Drain Reconstruction	85	85	85	85	85	425
Land Acquisition Fund	10	10	10	10	10	50
Water Quality and Supply	5	5	6	6	6	28
Diversion Project Phase II	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Total	366	369	373	376	379	1863
% Total budget	70.1	68.2	64.3	63.2	62.4	65.5

water recharge. They are environmentally sensitive (native vegetation, wildlife and waterfowl habitat) and they are susceptible to wind erosion.

As a result, we will continue to discourage construction of new drainage channels in the eastern uplands. Should local drainage be requested we will look for ways to accomodate these requirements on a case by case basis, using established alternatives (eg. local water storage, lot grading).

Land Acquisition Program

The Board may choose to acquire parcels of land that are important groundwater recharge areas or perennially flood-prone.



Waterways of the District

LEGEND

- Waterways
- District Boundary
- Sub-District Boundary
- Diversion Project

Drain Maintenance Program

Our inventory of drain capacity shows that:

- 302 miles have minor or no capacity reduction
- 37 miles have moderate capacity reduction.

Maintenance will continue to require about $360,000 (13%) of the budget over the next 5 years.

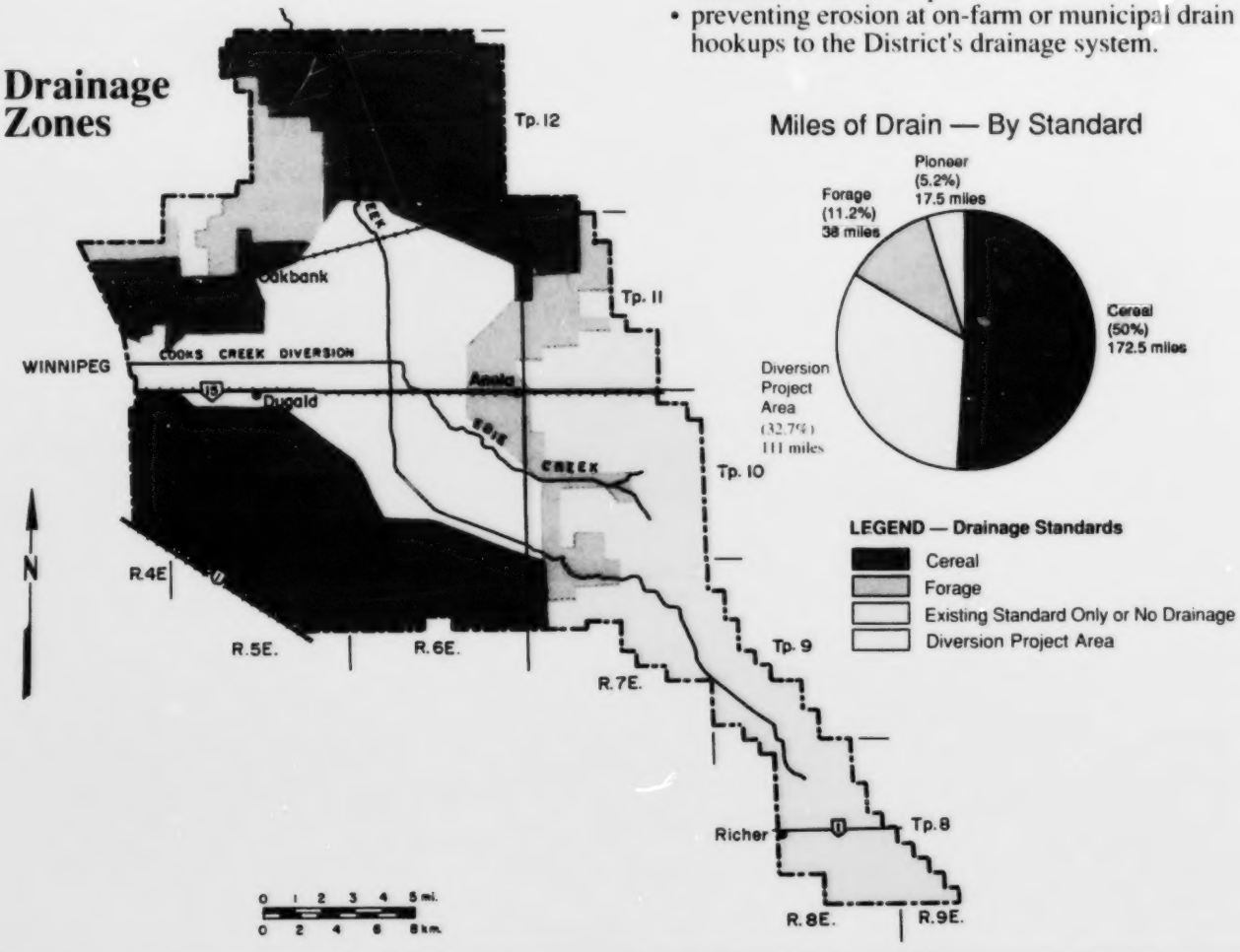
Efforts would involve 50 miles of "light maintenance" (mowing) per year and a smaller amount (usually about 5 miles) of "heavy maintenance" (silt cleanout, earthwork, toe drain construction, dyke repair, small reconstruction).

This level of effort would probably be necessary to maintain the existing system in the long run, even after reconstruction projects are complete.

Wherever practical, the Board will build reconstructed drains with slopes that allow ordinary farm machinery to cut vegetation, encouraging landowners to make use of hay in drains along their property.

The Board will protect investments in drain construction and maintenance, by:

- reminding producers of the importance of buffer strips for erosion control and maintenance of the drainage system
- urging producers to respect the right-of-way along drains
- establishing a policy against blatant abuse of buffer strips and asking municipalities to pass a similar by-law
- requiring that all reconstruction and cleanout projects include agreement by the landowner to maintain a buffer strip
- preventing erosion at on-farm or municipal drain hookups to the District's drainage system.



Overseeing Completion of the Diversion Project

The Board will continue to oversee completion of the two remaining phases of the Cooks Creek Diversion Project.

We will also ensure that work on the Diversion is co-ordinated with our other drain reconstruction and maintenance activities.

Upgrading of Tributary Drains (Phase II). The Board will direct the upgrading of agricultural drains in the 80 square mile Diversion Project Area (see map). A five year agreement has been reached between the District and the Province of Manitoba to spend $1.0 million as the first step towards completion of the work.

Engineering studies have been completed for two of the six "sub-watersheds" in the Diversion Project Area. One has been examined in a preliminary way and rough estimates have been developed for the remaining three sub-watersheds.

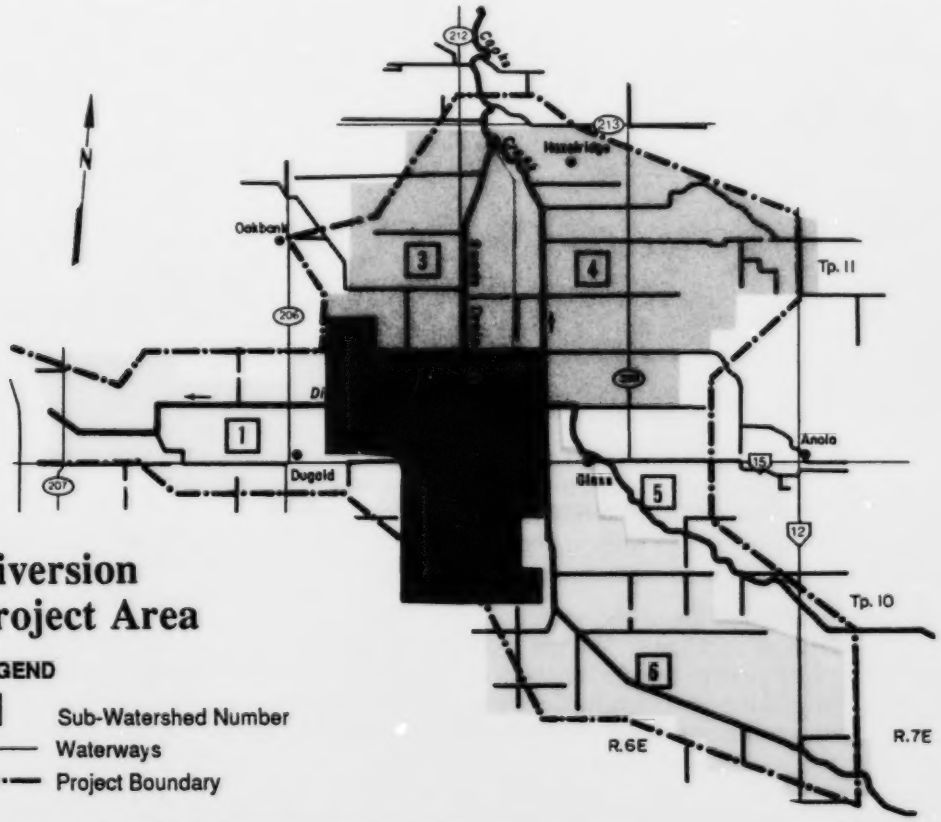
The Board plans to approach this major effort by upgrading key drains first, then observing the effects of the work before addressing other parts of the tributary system.

On-Farm Drainage (Phase III). To be effective, the diversion channel and tributary drains must be properly connected to on-farm drains where flooding from summer rain causes crop damage.

Phase III of the Cooks Creek Diversion Project involves farm-by-farm upgrading of drains, undertaken and paid for by individual producers.

The Board will encourage properly designed on-farm drainage systems by:

- continuing to lend survey equipment to landowners at no charge
- encouraging producers to use on-farm drain services of the Department of Agriculture and to work in cooperation with the Board when installing drains.



Diversion Project Area

Water Quality and Supply

The Board will help safeguard the quantity and quality of District groundwater and surface water resources.

Monitoring Program. We have instituted a surface water quality monitoring plan, designed for the Board by the Manitoba Department of Environment.

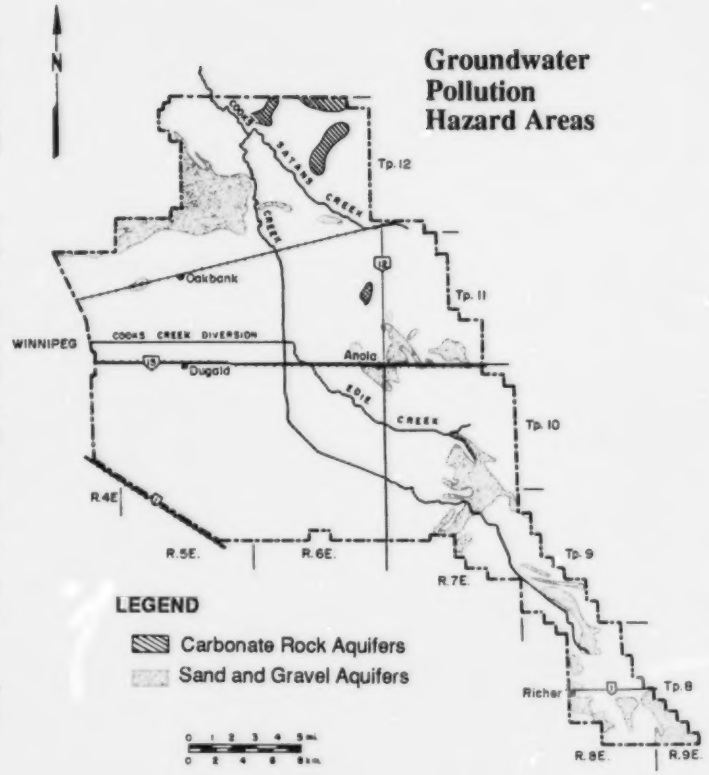
We will report the results of the monitoring annually in a newsletter which is planned to keep residents abreast of District activities and conservation topics.

Groundwater Protection Guidelines. The Water Resources Branch of Manitoba Natural Resources has begun to update District baseline assessments of groundwater quality and supplies. The Board and municipalities will draw on the results of the assessment to develop guidelines for protecting District aquifers.

We will also use the guidelines to keep the public posted on ways of protecting groundwater supplies.

In addition, the Board will cite the guidelines when commenting on subdivision development applications within the District.

The Board will adopt environmental guidelines to ensure that its own works program does not adversely affect water quality and supply.



Residential Flood Protection

The District's agricultural drainage system obviously carries water away from houses as well as cropland. In fact, it has allowed rural residential development to occur. But the system was not designed to residential flood protection standards.

Unfortunately, the Board does not have the financial resources to upgrade the drainage network to a standard which would alleviate the effects of spring flooding on residences in the District. Our limited maintenance budget cannot even cover snow-clearing.

We are, however, concerned about the effects of spring flooding on District residents. We are also concerned that the problem will get worse, not better, since much of the District is subject to spring flooding and the number of homes continues to grow each year.

As a first line of defense, we will help residents avoid building in flood-prone areas by assisting municipalities in identifying locations prone to spring flooding and to flooding from summer rainfall.

We also propose to photograph flooded areas from the air, for interpretation by Manitoba Natural Resources for mapping.

Flood protection standards may be required in certain areas of the municipality, an example being locations where urban or rural residential development predominate.

In such cases the Board is prepared to hold talks with municipalities to undertake drain enhancement with municipal funding.

CROSSINGS

The Board is responsible for maintaining and replacing, as necessary, 38 bridge structures and over 800 culvert crossings as part of the overall drainage network. The Board is not responsible for crossings that connect to PR's or PTH's or over natural waterways.

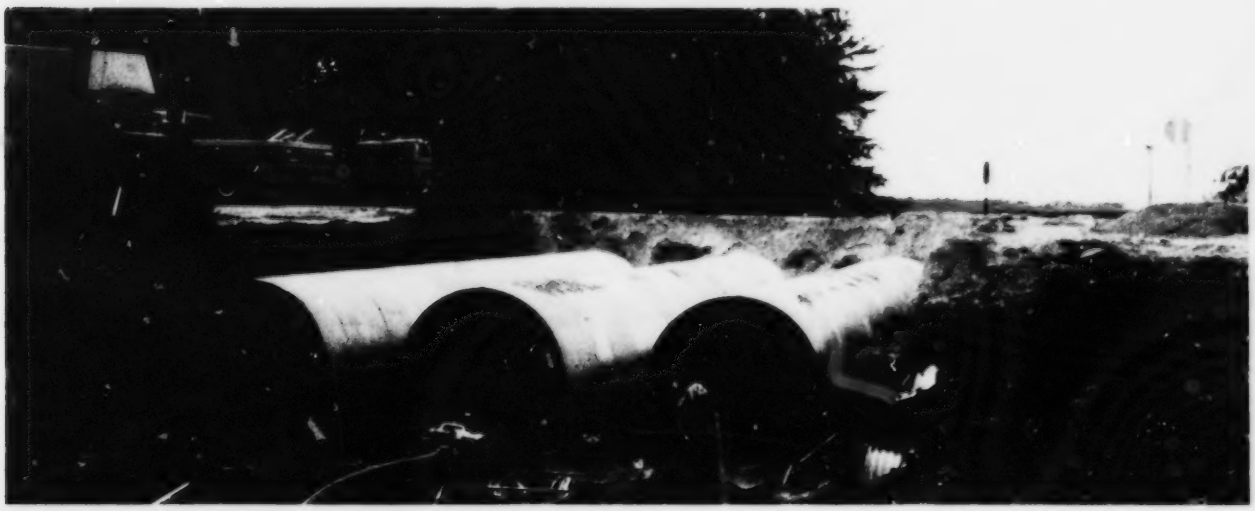
Of the 38 bridge structures, 5 need immediate replacement or repair, for an estimated $68,000. The other 33 bridges should be repaired or replaced over the next 20 to 25 years, for an estimated $1 million in 1989 dollars.

Each year, a number of culverts and floodgates need repair, mainly because of flooding or to keep pace with upgraded drainage standards and increases in rural residential population.

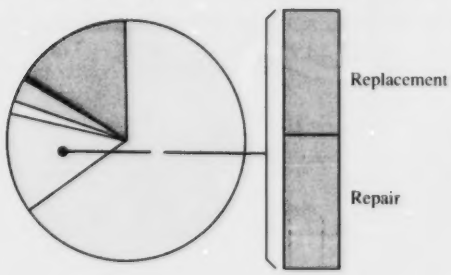
To date, the Board's annual allocation of approximately 14% of the program budget has been adequate to keep up with its crossing responsibilities. However, the demand for crossings across Board drains is bound to grow, given the likelihood of continued rural residential development in the District.

Where feasible, the Board will try to limit the impact of repair and replacement of Board crossings on the drainage system and annual budgets by:

- encouraging municipalities to require developers of new rural sub-divisions to install service roads for access to rural residential property along Board drains
- requiring adjacent landowners in currently undeveloped subdivisions to share access
- requesting municipalities to withhold building permits until crossing permission has been authorized by the Board.



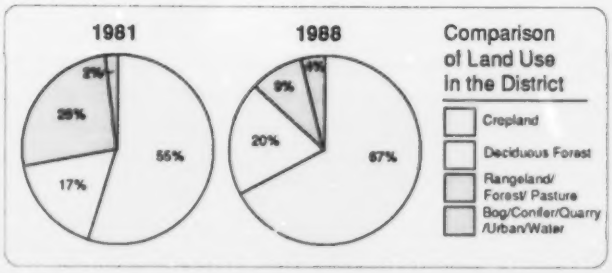
PROPOSED 5-YEAR PROGRAM



$000

Program Component	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Replacement	32	34	36	41	44	187
Repair	36	38	40	42	44	200
Total	68	72	76	83	88	387
% Total Budget	13.0	13.3	13.1	13.9	14.5	13.6

SOIL MANAGEMENT



Poor Soil Drainage

Poor drainage is the chief soil management concern in the District. The agricultural capability of otherwise fertile soils can be limited by excess summer rainfall.

The solution is to maintain agricultural drains properly, particularly in highly productive areas.

Wind Erosion

Wind erosion, another management concern, can result from lack of natural vegetation cover and from lack of residue in tilled fields during dry conditions.

In the Spring of 1988, for example, some locations lost up to 70 tons of soil per acre — about half an inch — which would take nature 35 to 40 years to replace.

Encouraging Natural Vegetation Cover

We will encourage landowners to maintain erodible soils under natural vegetative cover by requesting that:

- the Province flag the lower assessed value of wooded areas and wetlands on tax notices
- municipalities discourage clearing of wooded land
- municipalities not sell or develop their land in these areas
- landowners, in verbal or written agreements, preserve land under natural vegetation cover.

Encouraging Conservation Management Practices

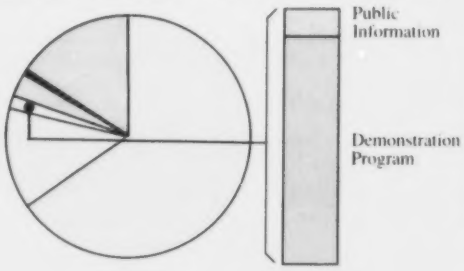
Soil management in cropped areas has not prevented erosion under the dry conditions experienced in the past 2 years.

Faced with this problem, the Board will evaluate the effectiveness of conservation soil management practices used elsewhere in conditions similar to those of the District.

We will develop a program to encourage conservation practices. The program may include a conservation tillage demonstration project and a regular column on soil management in the District newsletter. Depending on the choice of program, the District may pursue special funding under federal-provincial agreements to encourage soil conservation.

The Board will work with the local soil improvement associations in developing soil programs in the District.

PROPOSED 5-YEAR PROGRAM



$000

Program Component	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Public Information	1	1	1	1	1	5
Demonstration Program	1	10	10	10	10	41
Total	2	11	11	11	11	46
% Total Budget	0.3	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.6

Long Term Loss of Productive Agricultural Land

The District is close enough to Winnipeg to make it attractive for commuters.

Agricultural Land Under Seige

We are concerned about the extent to which prime agricultural land is being used to satisfy the demand for residential building sites.

We are also concerned with the long term prospects for productive agriculture in the District. These are complex issues and we recognize there are no easy solutions.

The extent to which agricultural and non-agricultural uses of land are compatible is also of concern to the Board. Studies of areas around major metropolitan centres in Canada have shown that land fragmentation, complaints, land assessment, and land speculation have affected the productivity of agricultural land in an "urban shadow effect" years before the land is converted to urban uses.

Some, if not all, of the District will inevitably be touched by this phenomenom in the long term.

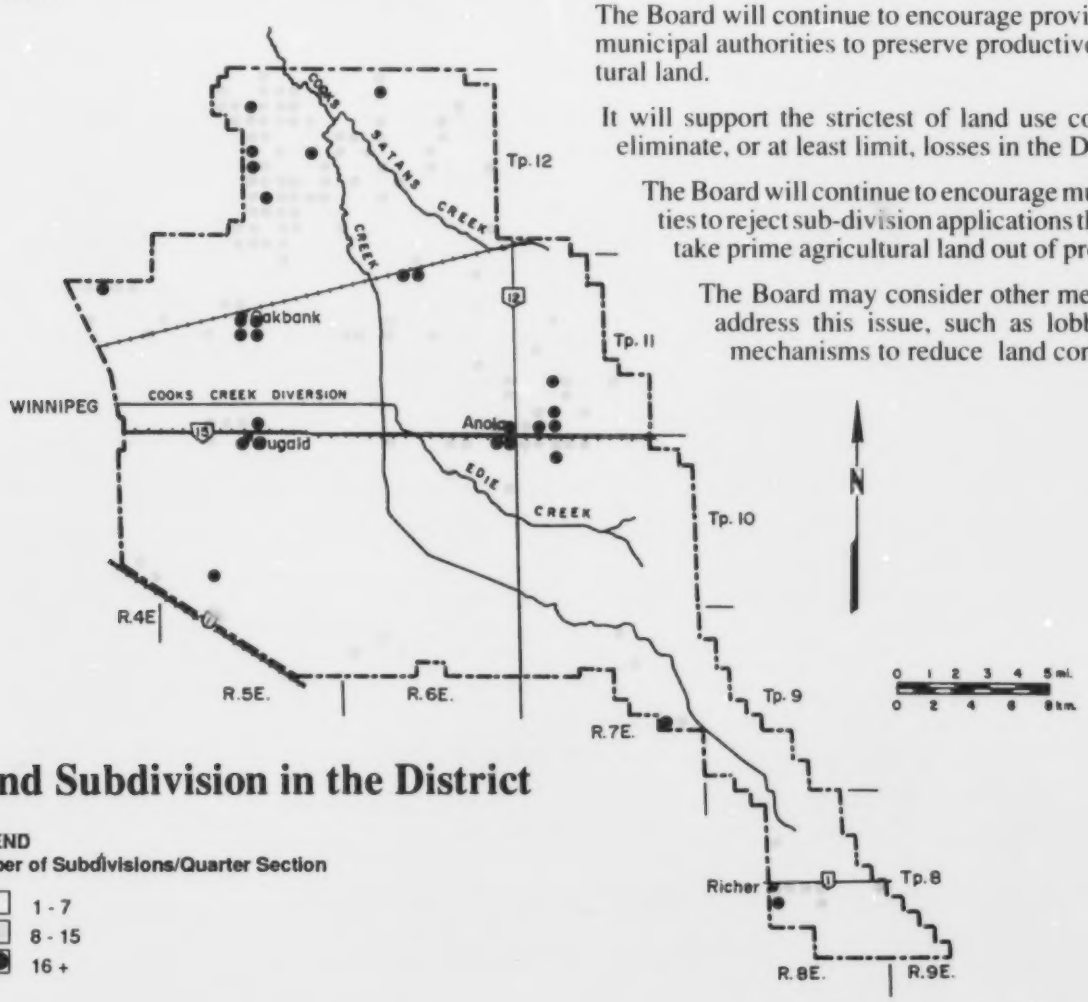
Support for Preservation of Productive Agricultural Land

The Board will continue to encourage provincial and municipal authorities to preserve productive agricultural land.

It will support the strictest of land use controls to eliminate, or at least limit, losses in the District.

The Board will continue to encourage municipalities to reject sub-division applications that would take prime agricultural land out of production.

The Board may consider other measures to address this issue, such as lobbying for mechanisms to reduce land conversion.



Land Subdivision in the District

LEGEND
Number of Subdivisions/Quarter Section

- 1 - 7
- 8 - 15
- 16 +

OTHER PROJECTS

Conservation & Reclamation

The Board has identified projects that could be pursued within the District, including:

- reclaiming land which has been mined for peat
- developing small lakes or ponds, particularly on Crown or municipal land.

Focus on Multiple Benefits

When the Board evaluates potential conservation and reclamation projects, it will give priority to those offering multiple benefits, such as:

- water storage
- wildlife habitat enhancement
- fish habitat enhancement
- recreation opportunities
- conservation education.

Co-operative Support

The Board will pursue sources of funding from potential partners in conservation projects. For example, Ducks Unlimited has been asked to evaluate various sites for a habitat enhancement project.

Conservation Action Fund

Although the Board does not have sufficient funds at its disposal to pursue large-scale reclamation projects on its own, it will continue to pursue opportunities for low cost projects that offer benefits, if only on a small scale.

We will seek proposals from landowners for small-scale programs, and will evaluate the potential of such projects on Crown or municipal land.

Wildlife and Fish

We recognize the inherent value of wildlife and fish populations to District residents and outsiders. The watershed enjoys healthy populations of whitetailed deer, waterfowl, and other wildlife. Small populations of fish species are thought to be present in the watershed, although inventories are not available to confirm this.

We also recognize that wildlife populations are occasionally at odds with residents. We sometimes destroy their habitat, they sometimes destroy our crops.

Protecting and Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

We will seek to discourage the clearing of natural vegetation and draining of remaining wetlands in the District (for example, by signing wildlands and conservation corridors along municipal rights-of-way). Given the limited financial resources and authority available to the Board, this will have to be accomplished through verbal or written landowner agreement and through co-operative action of municipal and provincial authorities on public lands. One reason for selecting conservation and reclamation projects will be the improvement of habitat conditions for waterfowl and fish populations.

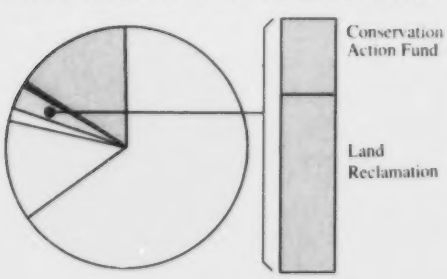
Minimizing Wildlife Nuisance

We will draw on the assistance of Provincial Wildlife Branch to reduce deer depredation and flooding caused by beaver dams.

Mitigating Environmental Impact of Programs

The Board will develop environmental guidelines for drain maintenance and reconstruction activities that minimize impact on wildlife and fish.

PROPOSED 5-YEAR PROGRAM



$000

Program Component	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Land Reclamation	0	0	20	20	20	60
Conservation Action Fund	5	5	5	5	5	25
Total	5	5	25	25	25	85
% Total Budget	1.0	0.9	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.0

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Board is committed to keeping residents informed of the Board's activities and progress toward our common conservation goals.

The Board also feels that it is important to make residents aware of local resource management issues and to provide information on good conservation practices.

Sponsoring the Conservation Farm Family Award

The Board will continue to recognize the farm family each year which best exemplifies the principles of conservation farming. As in the past, signage announcing the award will be provided for the farm yard.

Sponsoring the Conservation Speech Contest

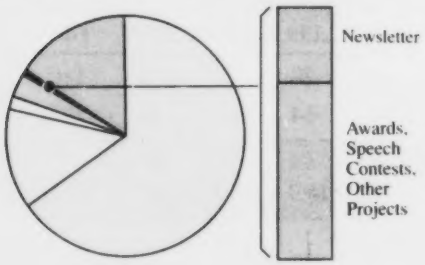
The Board will continue to sponsor a speech contest on conservation for young people in the District. Each year the award winner is sponsored to attend the provincial competition which includes winners of all conservation district competitions.

Publishing an Annual Conservation Newsletter

The Board will publish an annual newsletter on:

- activities and projects of the Board
- surface and groundwater monitoring program
- conservation practices for District water and soil management
- general conservation and resource management topics.

PROPOSED 5-YEAR PROGRAM



$000

Program Component	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Newsletter	1	1	1	1	1	5
Awards, Speech Contest, Other Projects	2	2	2	3	3	12
Total	3	3	3	4	4	17
% Total Budget	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6

ADMINISTRATION

The Cooks Creek Conservation District is under the direction of a Board of local residents committed to the principles of sound resource management.

The Board is supported by Sub-District Committees representing the three sub-watersheds: Cooks Creek (Sub-District #11), Lower Seine River (Sub-District #9) and Carrs Creek (Sub-District #12).

The Board meets monthly in Oakbank. Sub-District Committees meet about twice a year.

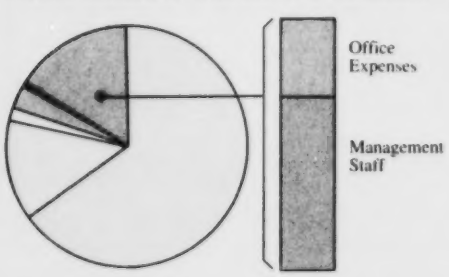
The Board does not anticipate changes in the administration of District programs, apart from normal increases in staff costs and increases in operating costs at the rate of inflation. It may be necessary to add staff resources by the middle of the 5-year budget.

District programs are administered from an office in Oakbank by a full-time manager, Bernie Lussier, and a part-time secretary-treasurer, Lynn Sellen.

Services performed by these staff include:

- administering programs of the District
- preparing annual budgets and program proposals
- administering program funds
- communicating with District residents
- conducting field investigations and research in support of Board decisions
- participating in conservation organizations in the District
- implementing the Management Plan with Board direction
- communicating with, and monitoring, the Engineering and Construction Branch of Natural Resources which undertakes the Board's annual reconstruction and maintenance program for District drains.
- Obtaining technical and planning assistance from provincial government agencies.

PROPOSED 5-YEAR PROGRAM



$000

Program Component	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Office Expenses	26	27	28	29	30	140
Management/Staff	52	54	64	67	70	307
Total	78	81	92	96	100	447
% Total Budget	14.9	15.0	15.9	16.1	16.5	15.7

District Board and Staff. Seated (L. - R.): Lynn Sellen (Sec.-Treas.), Garry Brown, Brian Wilkinson. Standing (L. - R.): Bernie Lussier (Mgr.), Howard Smith, Bob Maciejkow (Chairperson), John Cook.

Board and Sub-District Members

Provincial Appointee
John Cook

Board Chairperson
Bob Maciejkow

Board Members
John Cook
Howard Smith
Garry Brown
Brian Wilkinson

Manager
Bernie Lussier

Secretary Treasurer
Lynn Sellen

Sub-District 9
Chairperson:
Brian Wilkinson

- Brian Wilkinson
- Don Lannoo
- Vladmir Bednar
- Gary Ammeter

Sub-District 11
Chairperson:
Garry Brown

- Garry Brown
- Ted Choma
- Mark Lanouette
- Ed Komadowski
- Ed Barham
- Jake Martens
- Albert Chaput
- Louie Ross

Sub-District 12
Chairperson:
Howard Smith

- Howard Smith
- Myron Gavaga

EXPENDITURES & REVENUES

Proposed 5-Year Program Expenditures

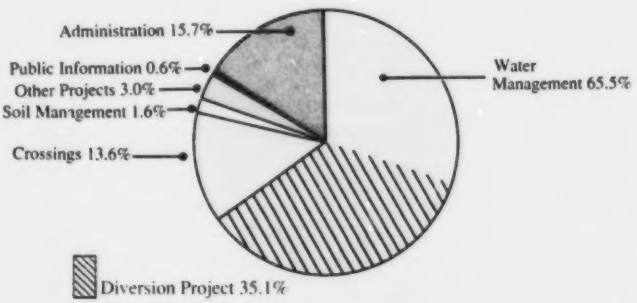
We are proposing a budget of $2.8 million for 1991-95, starting with $522,000 in 1991 and growing to $607,000 in 1995. Growth in the budget which includes the Diversion Project, is less than the rate of inflation.

Proposed expenditures are not engraved in stone. They are subject to change and to annual approvals.

Water management remains a priority, at 66% of the budget over 5 years. **Crossing repair and replacement** is projected to require about 14% of the total budget over 5 years, based on a schedule of bridge replacement and ongoing maintenance. **Administration** is projected to require about 16% of the overall budget. No changes in administration are expected, apart from the possible need to increase staff mid-way through the 5-year period. **Public Information** will be expanded to include an annual newsletter.

We have earmarked development funds in the early years to assess the feasibility of new programs in **Soil Management** and **Other Projects**. If the programs prove feasible, we will seek financial assistance from other programs or partners, such as the Federal/Provincial Soils Agreement.

Work toward completion of the Cooks Creek Diversion Project constitutes the majority share of the Water Management budget ($1.0 million out of $1.9 million for Water Management).



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Proposed Expenditures 1991 - 1995

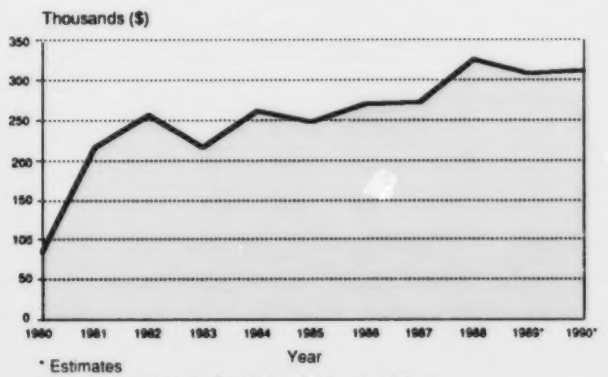
Programs	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Water Management	166	169	173	176	179	863
Diversion Project - Phase II	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Crossings	68	72	76	83	88	387
Soil Management	2	11	11	11	11	46
Other Projects	5	5	25	25	25	85
Public Information	3	3	3	4	4	17
Administration	78	81	92	96	100	447
Total	522	541	580	595	607	2845

District Expenditures 1980-1990

Since 1980, the Board has operated a range of programs and overseen construction of Phase I of the Cooks Creek Diversion ($4.5 million).

Water management (upgrading and maintaining agricultural drains) has been the main work of the Board to date, averaging about 57% of the total budget over 11 years. Repair and maintenance of crossings over Board drains averaged 24%, and administration, 18%.

In the mid-1980s, the Board assumed responsibility for administering funds locally, hired its first full-time manager, and set up a public information program which accounted for about 1% of overall expenditures.



Note: does not include Cooks Creek Diversion Project

Projected Revenues

Revenues to finance the District's proposed 5-year program are shown in the chart.

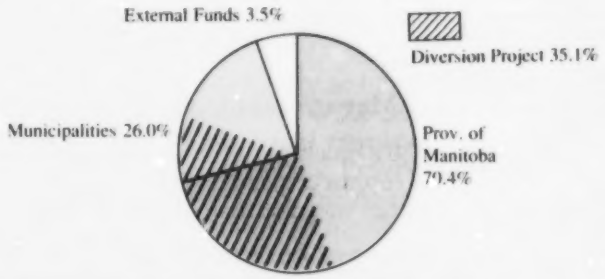
Once again, the 75/25 sharing of normal program costs between the Province and the member municipalities applies.

External funds are expected to be tied to specific projects sponsored by the District.

The Cooks Creek Diversion Project – Phase II will be funded 60/40 between the Province and the District.

The agreement covering the period 1990 to 1994 was signed in the fall of 1989. The budget assumes that a similar agreement will cover the 1995 budget year.

Phase I of the Diversion Project achieved substantial leverage of non-local funds. Member municipalities, through the District, contributed $166,000. The Government of Canada contributed $2.05 million and the Province of Manitoba, $2.28 million.



$000

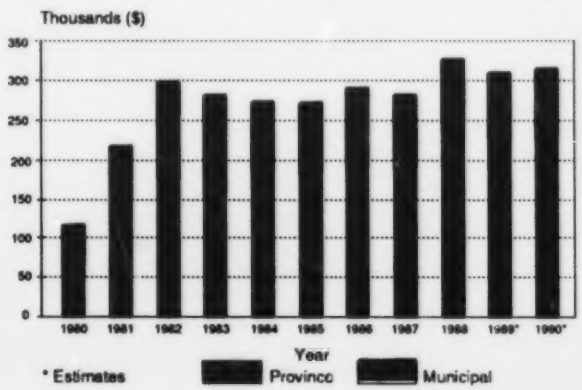
Source of Funding	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total	(%)
Province of Manitoba	242	248	262	274	283	1309	46.0
Municipalities	80	83	88	91	94	436	15.3
External Funds	0	10	30	30	30	100	3.5
Diversion Project, Phase II:							
Province of Manitoba	75	125	175	200	120	695	24.4
Municipalities	125	75	25	0	80	305	10.7
Total	522	541	580	595	607	2845	100.0

District Revenues 1980-1990

District programs have been cost-shared, with the Province contributing 75¢ for every 25¢ from the member municipalities.

Municipalities have raised funds by levying rateable land in the District.

No other sources of funding have been used.



Note: does not include Cooks Creek Diversion Project

THE PROCESS

In 1989 the Board put in motion a three-step planning process for preparing a management plan. The plan was finalized by the Board in May of 1990.

3-STEP PROCESS

Step 1: Resource Management Issues & Options

In the spring of 1989 a brochure outlining our preliminary thoughts on resource management issues and options for the District was distributed to each household.

We discussed these ideas with residents at open houses in Oakbank, Anola and Ste. Geneviève and with the municipal councils of Springfield, Ste. Anne and Taché.

The brochure was also circulated to staff in various departments of the provincial government for their comment.

Step 2: Draft Plan

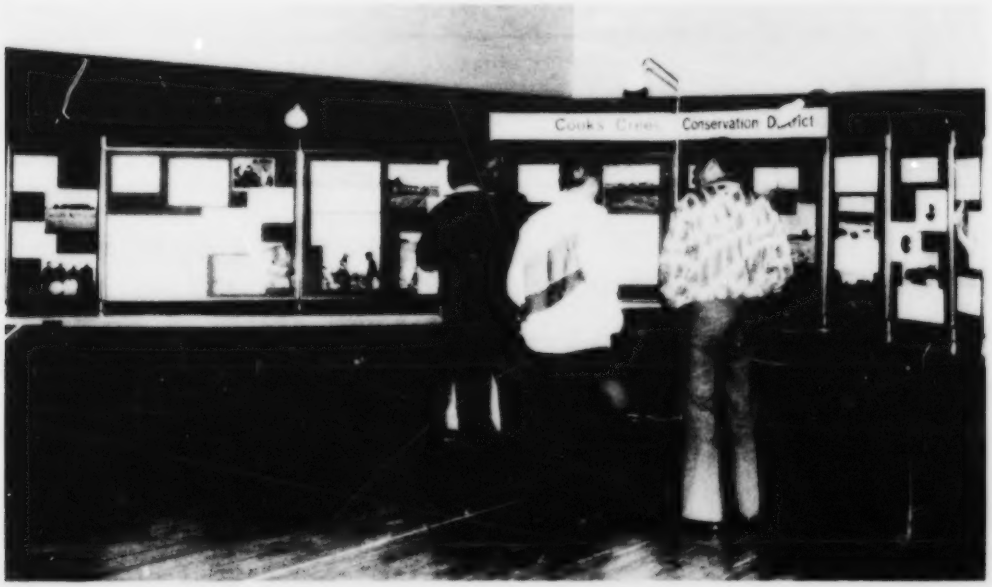
After considering your responses, we prepared a Draft Plan. It outlined our proposal for the future direction of the District and the specific program and budget priorities for the next 5 years.

A copy of this Draft Plan was mailed to each household in the District. We discussed it with residents at open houses and received comments on completed questionnaires.

We met with member municipal councils and the subdistrict committees again to review the plan. Government departments also provided their comments on the Draft Plan.

Step 3: Management Plan

We thoroughly discussed the Draft Plan and prepared this Final Management Plan. The Final Plan has been approved by the Cooks Creek Conservation District Board and by the Minister of Rural Development.



BACKGROUND

The District. Established in 1979, the Cooks Creek Conservation District covers more than 300 square miles. It includes the drainage basins of Cooks Creek (except the downstream portion in the RM of St. Clements), the Lower Seine River, and Carrs Creek.

District boundaries are defined by watershed rather than by municipality, since water resources, in particular, are best managed on a watershed basis.

Topography, soils and vegetation of the watershed are distinguished by eastern uplands and a central lowland. Uplands include wooded areas interspersed with cultivated fields, pasture and home sites. The central lowlands, once the basin of glacial Lake Agassiz, are now intensively cropped.

Land uses in the District include agricultural production of crops, pasture and livestock; some industry; and sand, gravel, and peat extraction.

Since the District lies so close to Winnipeg, several villages have become bedroom communities for people who commute daily. Rural residential development has also grown, particularly around Birds Hill Park.

The Board. The District is managed by a 5-member board supported by three sub-district committees. This group of local residents works together to establish programs and policies that enhance natural resources in the watershed. Programs can include water management, soil management, conservation projects, and public information.

Each year, funding for the work of the District is cost-shared by the Province of Manitoba and member municipalities (75/25) respectively. From time to time other sources of funding can also contribute to special projects.

Each Rural Municipality or Local Government District appoints members to the Sub-District Committees. Four of the Board members are elected from these committees, and the Province of Manitoba appoints one member. Programs are administered with the assistance of two staff members, the District Manager, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

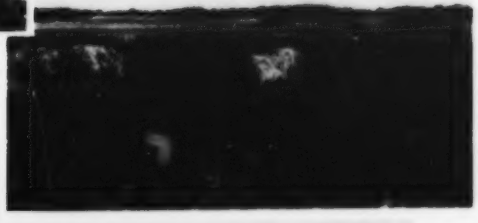
The Management Plan. The Management Plan was intended to establish the Board's long term vision for the District and its program and funding priorities for the next five years. We have finalized and approved our Plan.

The Board viewed preparation of a Management Plan as an opportunity to get input from residents and member municipal councils about the Board's plans for work in the District. We also got the input, and ultimately the approval, of the Provincial Government for the Management Plan.

At the beginning of the planning process we prepared an Issues and Options paper to get all of us thinking about what the management plan should include. We sent the paper to households throughout the District, then followed up with public open houses in Oakbank, Anola and Ste. Geneviève to hear your views. We also met with the councils of Springfield, Ste. Anne and Taché municipalities, as well as sub-district committees. The same process was repeated with the Board's Draft Management Plan.

After reviewing public response to date, we have prepared this Final Management Plan.

It presents our proposals for the future management of our watershed resources over the next five years and in the long term.



LONG TERM VISION FOR THE DISTRICT

The Cooks Creek Conservation District is likely to see substantial changes over the next 20 years (1991 to 2011), and certainly over the next 50 years (1991 to 2041), in resource use and in the resource base of the watershed.

Given the proximity of the District to Winnipeg, the rate of change is likely to be accelerated when compared to a rural area without an urban influence.

Population growth, urbanization, rural residential development and even industrial development may be sources of pressure on natural resources in the future.

These changes may take the form of pressure to clear and drain wooded and wet areas for agricultural production, resource extraction or residential development.

Ground and surface water resources are likely to see increased withdrawals and effluent loading. Prime agricultural land will be under pressure from residential and other urban uses.

As a conservation district, the challenge facing the Board is how to safeguard its concept of conservation in light of the inevitable pressures on natural resources in the watershed.

To the Board, conservation means managing and using the District's natural resources in such a way that they are passed on to future generations in the same or better condition than they are in today.

The Board will continue to work toward wise management of District soils, water, and natural resources. Specifically, the Board's long term goals are:

- To protect the long term productive capability of agricultural land in the District, including the prevention of residential subdivision of agricultural land
- To protect the supply and quality of groundwater and surface water resources in the District
- To protect the important headwater storage, groundwater recharge and other functions of the upland areas of the watershed
- To manage the system of agricultural drains effectively and efficiently, considering the watershed as a whole
- To inform the public about the principles of conservation in general and about the District in particular.